

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-6 remain in this application as amended herein, and claims 7-10 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are submitted for Examiner's reconsideration.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Na (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,731) in view of Horisawa (European Patent Application No. EP 0,966,157). Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Claim 1, for example, calls for:

process control means for receiving the outputted control command from said interface means, for reading out an associated one of a plurality of stored control programs in response to the received control command, for converting the associated control program into control data that is recognizable by said signal processing means and which is associated with the particular one of the plurality of different kinds of transmission media, and for outputting the control data to said control input of said signal processing means[.] (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner incorrectly contends that the cited sections of Na teach a "process control means containing a control program corresponding to at least one of the kinds of transmission media" and refers to means 101 of Fig. 3 and to col.5 ll.9-22 and col.6 ll.37. However, element 101 of Fig. 3 is a tuner that selects a broadcast program from multi-program MPEG2-TS broadcast signal. Similarly, the cited sections of Na merely describe single program and multi-program MPEG2-TS broadcast output. Therefore, the cited sections of Na describe broadcast programs that are included in a broadcast signal. The cited sections of Na do not disclose or suggest a control

program and do not disclose or suggest a control program that is stored and that is read out in response to a received control command.

The Examiner also contends that "Na teaches a process control means for converting [a] control command into recognizable data (control) for the processing means" and refers to means 104, 105, 108 and 112 of Fig. 3, and to col.4 ll.46-67, col.5 ll.9-22, and col.6 ll.37. However, the cited sections of Na refer only to the extraction and processing of a single broadcast program. The cited sections of Na do not disclose or suggest a control program that is converted into control data that is recognizable by signal processing means which processes a received signal based on the data.

The cited sections of Horisawa do not remedy the deficiencies of the cited sections of Na. It follows that neither the cited sections of Na nor the cited sections of Horisawa, whether taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the apparatus defined in claim 1, and claim 1 is therefore patentably distinct and unobvious over the cited references.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

Moreover, neither the cited sections of Na nor the cited sections of Horisawa disclose or suggest an associated control program that is independent of a particular transmission medium, as set out in claim 2, and do not disclose or suggest an associated control program that is independent of a reception zone, as set out in claim 3.

Independent claim 6 defines a method of receiving a signal which includes step having limitations similar to those set out in claim 1. Claim 6 is therefore patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

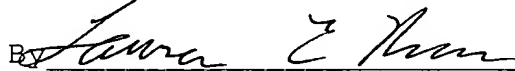
New claim 7 includes limitations similar to those set out in claim 1, and new claims 8-10 depend from claim 7. Claim 7-10 are therefore distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons. Support for new claims 7-10 is found, e.g., in Figs. 12-15 and in the corresponding paragraphs of the specification.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: October 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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